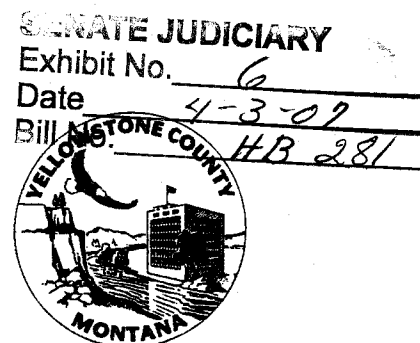


Yellowstone County

COMMISSIONERS
(406) 256-2701
(406) 256-2777 (FAX)

P.O. Box 35000
Billings, MT 59107-5000
commission@co.yellowstone.mt.us



March 14, 2007

Honorable Members of the Montana Senate,


Please accept this correspondence requesting your support of HB 281.

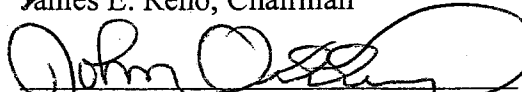
HB 281 is designed to help ensure the accuracy and the integrity of the election process. Late registration, while generally a positive step forward for the voters of Montana, has shown to be a negative for the vast majority of voters when it occurs on Election Day. Moving the close of late registration back to 5:00 pm on the Friday before an election, accomplishes two important objectives, the first objective is that it still provides the voter with 26 days of additional registration where the close of registration deadline once prohibited them from voting, but, it also allows the election officials the time to print registers, prepare supplies and provide adequate support for the vast majority of voters who have registered in time to vote at the polling places. Late registration on Election Day increases costs, the potential for critical mistakes, the chance for voter fraud and reduces the level of support available for voters at the polling places. House Bill 281 seems a reasonable solution to very real problems that currently exist and must be addressed. If these problems are not addressed, there is a great likelihood that serious consequences are going to surface in the 2008 Presidential Election.

The Clerk and Records/Election Administrators, who have been charged with the task of administering elections in Montana, unanimously support House Bill 281. Additionally, many County Commissioners across the state support the concept of this bill. This support crosses all party lines and political affiliation. We urge you to support HB 281 and provide to the election officials the ability to conduct elections with the highest level of accessibility while still maintaining the necessary level of accuracy and integrity.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF YELLOWSTONE COUNTY


James E. Reno, Chairman


John Ostlund, Member

LETTERS OF SUPPORT
FROM COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

PHILLIPS COUNTY

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TROY BLUNT
RICHARD DUNBAR
LESLEY ROBINSON

CLERK & RECORDER

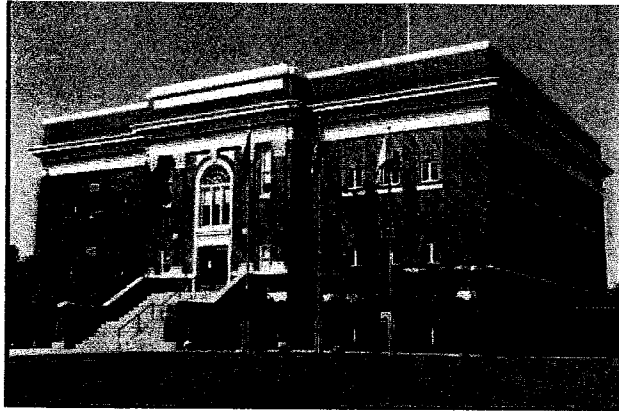
LAUREL N HINES

TREASURER/ASSESSOR

JEAN MAVENCAMP

SHERIFF/CORONER

THOMAS K MILLER



CLERK OF COURT

IRIS ROBINSON

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

VIVIAN TAYLOR

COUNTY ATTORNEY

EDWARD A AMESTOY

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

GAYLE STAHL

DISTRICT JUDGE

JOHN C. McKEON

PO BOX 360, MALTA MT 59538

March 12, 2007

The Honorable Senators
State of Montana
PO Box 200500
HELENA MT 59620-0500

Re: SUPPORT OF HB 281


Dear Honorable Senators:

The Phillips County Board of County Commissioners stand in support of HB 281. This bill will ensure the integrity of the election process in Montana and allow the Election Administrators in all our counties to efficiently complete the multitude of details involving the election process.

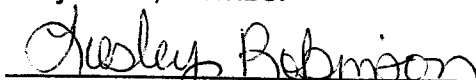
We ask that you support HB 281 as it now reads.

Thank you.

Phillips County
Board of County Commissioners


Richard Dunbar, Chairman


Troy Blunt, Member


Lesley Robinson, Member

LIBERTY COUNTY

STATE OF MONTANA

MAR 12 2007

COMMISSIONERS

DONALD R. MARBLE

RUSS TEMPEL

LARRY HENDRICKSON

March 7, 2007

Dear Senators:

We are writing to ask you to support HB 281. HB 281 will help our dedicated Clerk and Recorder properly prepare for the upcoming elections by closing registration of new voters on the Friday before the election.

We believe it is reasonable to close new registration in this manner so as to preserve the integrity of our election process.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, and we hope you will give HB 281 a "DO PASS."

Thank you for your time.

Liberty County Commissioners

Don Marble

Russ Tempel

Larry Hendrickson

P.O. Box 459 CHESTER, MT 59522

PHONE: 406.759.5365 FAX: 406.759.5395



MAR 12 2007

Fergus County

712 W. Main • Lewistown, MT 59457
Ph: 406-538-5119 • Fax: 406-538-9023
email: commissioners@co.fergus.mt.us

Commissioners:
Carl Seilstad
Ken Ronish
John Jensen

March 5, 2007

Members of the Committee

Senate State Administration Committee

Honorable Senators Squires, Balyeat, Cocchiarella, Essman, Gallus, Jent, Laible,
Laslovich, Lewis, Shockley, Tropilia

Support for HB 281

Dear Honorable Senators;

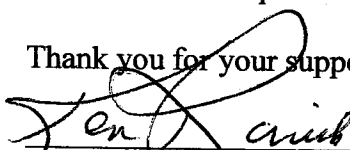
We, the Fergus County Commissioners are requesting your support of HB281, this bill will allow counties to regain that portion of our election process that we, and our staff, found to cause us uncertainty in the 2006 General Election.

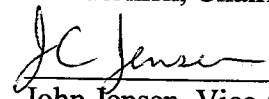
By allowing individuals to register and vote on Election Day, after the registers have been produced and sent to the polls, allows questionability in the election process. Are the individuals college students who have already requested an absentee ballot? Have the individuals registered in an adjoining County? Are they intent on causing the process to be tainted?

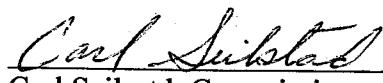
We need to assure our voters, as well as the candidates, that we have provided them with the fairest most trust worthy system that is available to us. In allowing them the additional time, until Friday at 5:00PM before Election Day, expands the registration process for them, and allows our election administrator time to accurately record the registrations and absentee votes.

We would appreciate your support of House Bill 281 and in helping us to regain the confidence of the process of voter registration.

Thank you for your support,


Ken Ronish, Chairman


John Jensen, Vice-Chairman


Carl Seilstad, Commissioner

MAR 9 - 2007

Office of the
BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

P.O. Box 268
Chinook, Montana 59523

Telephone (406) 357-3250

FAX (406) 357-2199

Dolores Plumage
Don K. Swenson
Vic Miller

Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

March 8, 2007

Re: HB 281

To The Distinguished Members of the Senate State Administration Committee,

HB 281 will be heard in your committee after passage in the House. We have watched this bill in conjunction with our Clerk and Recorder. We stand in support of the bill. We firmly believe in enticing and including as many voters as possible in the election process. Accessibility to that inclusion is a matter of importance. However, we also understand the practicality of the election process and Election Day in particular.

In addition to the daily duties inherent with the office of the Clerk and Recorder, preparing for an election is an ominous task. Hopefully, people will not overlook that an incredible amount of county activities starts with and is completed at the Clerk and Recorder's Office. To add to the duties is the preparation leading up to Election Day. To no small extent and particular to smaller counties is the readying of election judges, preparation of ballot, testing and placement of election machine, readying polling places and preparing official voter registers. Keep in mind, these are an example of the major details involved in an election. There is a multitude of details involved in ensuring that the election process is beyond question.

For an unregistered voter to vote on Election Day, they **must** come to the courthouse in order to verify they are not registered somewhere else in the State of Montana and **has not voted already voted in another county**. They can then become registered in order to receive an absentee ballot. This process closes at noon on Monday of the Election Day week with voting being allowed with the opening of the polls on Tuesday.

HB 281 simply pushes the process back to the end of the business day on Friday, allowing the chief election administrator the opportunity to finalize the voter registers over the weekend. HB 281 has the net effect of rolling back late registration and voting by a mere seventeen hours.

While we understand the inconvenience this causes late voters, a larger question must be asked. Have we become so docile in this society that we cannot expect the citizens to take on a small amount of responsibility in the election process by doing their civic duty on Friday? We cannot imagine our founding fathers ever envisioning a complacency of our citizens at this magnitude. We ask that you support HB 281 as it now reads.

Sincerely,

ABSENT

Dolores Plumage

Don K. Swenson

Donald K. Swenson

Vic Miller

Vic Miller



Wheatland County

PO Box 1903

Harlowton, Montana 59036-1903

MAR 9 - 2007

Phone (406) 632-4891

FAX (406) 632-4880

COMMISSIONERS:

Tom Bennett
David Miller
Richard Moe

MARY E. MILLER, Clerk and Recorder

March 7, 2007

State Senate Administration Committee


Members of the Committee:

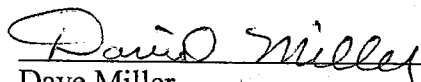
The Wheatland County Commissioners would like to voice their support of HB 281. We feel that moving late registration back will help preserve the integrity of elections as well as ensure the accuracy of the voting process.

Sincerely,

Wheatland County Commissioners


Tom Bennett, Chair


Richard Moe


Dave Miller





Jefferson County Commission

MAR 8 - 2007

Courthouse, P.O. Box H
Boulder, Montana 59632-0249
Telephone 406-225-4025
Fax 406-225-4148

Ken Weber, Chair Chuck Notbohm, Commissioner Tom Lythgoe, Commissioner

Senate State Administration Committee
Honorable Carolyn Squires, Chairman
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59620

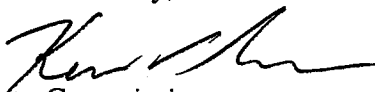
Dear Members of the Committee:

We are writing in support of HB281, which closes late registration at 5:00 p.m. the Friday before election.

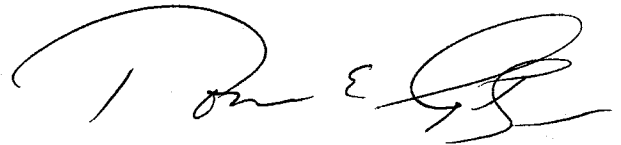
In June 2008 the courthouse will be open for all aspects of normal courthouse activity. The Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator office is not large enough to accommodate the various election day boards, people who are in line to register late and vote on election day, as well as the general public who are there on day to day business. Space will be an issue!

Currently, Jefferson County does not budget for temporary election staff. The cost of hiring and training temporary staff and the purchase of computers for their use needs to be taken into consideration. Training will be a cost for each election, as it is improbable that we would be able to rehire the same employee(s) for the primary and general election. Even if we were able to budget money for temporary staff to help the Election Administrator to perform her duties during the election process, we do not have any space in that office to accommodate the extra desks and computers needed for the employee(s).

Sincerely,


Commissioner


Commissioner


Commissioner



Bill Leach, Chairman Todd Devlin, Member Ann Marie Davis, Member
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
P.O. Box 125, Terry, MT 59349-0125
Phone 406-635-5575 Fax 406-635-5576
email: clerkrecorder@prairie.mt.gov website: www.prairie.mt.gov

March 6, 2007

Committee Members
Senate State Administration Committee
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

The Prairie County Board of Commissioners would like to urge your support of House Bill 281, Revise Election Laws, for the following reasons:

- Prairie County is a small county and while we did not experience the long lines of people at the courthouse on election day, we did experience problems with limited resources. Our election office has a staff of two, and was not able to effectively monitor polling place problems, calls from electors, candidates and media, and same-day registration and voting.
- At various times during election day, one person was left at the courthouse by themselves. Since the only office open was the election office, this created a security risk for that staff member.
- We feel that protecting the integrity of election day by minimizing the chances of problems happening on that day outweighs making it convenient for electors to delay registering to vote until election day.

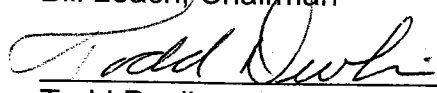
Please give consideration to supporting House Bill 281. Thank you.

Sincerely,

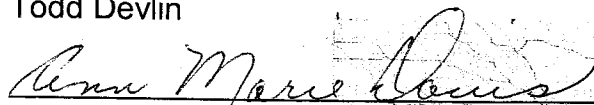
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Bill Leach, Chairman



Todd Devlin



Ann Marie Davis

Cc: Senator Keith Bales

TREASURE COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS:

Norris "Mack" Cole, Chairman
Doug Hollowell
Marlo Moehr

RUTH L. BAKER
CLERK & RECORDER
P.O. Box 392
Hysham, MT 59038

Phone: 406-342-5547
Fax: 406-342-5445

March 5, 2007

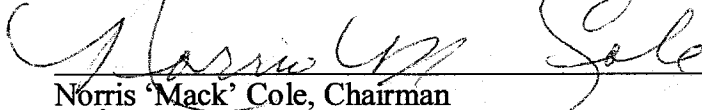
Members of the Committee
State Senate Administration Committee


Committee Members,

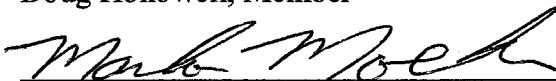
The Treasure County Board of Commissioners would like to encourage your support of HB 281. We would like to see the Late Registration continue, but stop on Friday at 5:00 P.M. prior to Election Day. Accuracy and integrity on Election Day should be the goal of all involved in the election. If our Election Administrators aren't allowed to focus on the process of the election due to their offices being so busy with late registrations we run the risk of losing the accuracy and integrity we are so used to having in Montana elections.

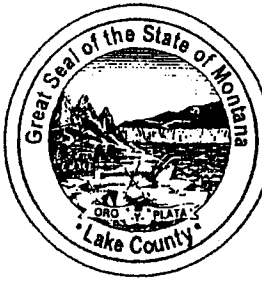
Please vote yes on HB 281 to allow Montana to continue having elections with accuracy and integrity. Thank you.

TREASURE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Norris 'Mack' Cole, Chairman


Doug Hollowell, Member


Marlo Moehr, Member



Lake County Commissioners

406-883-7204

Fax (406) 883-7283

LAKE COUNTY

106 4th Avenue East

Polson, Montana 59860

Duane Winslow
PO Box 35002
Billings MT 59107

We, the Lake County Commissioners, support HB 281 for the following reasons:

Integrity of the election process. People can go to their polling place early on election day and vote, then drive to the next county, register and vote again. There is no way to determine who voted at a polling place until after the canvass the following week, which could compromise the accuracy of the votes.

Lack of physical space prohibits hiring and training extra staff because there is no place to put them.

Permanent absentee, no-excuse necessary absentee, and late registration all allow voters easy access to the voting process.

General elections do not suddenly appear from nowhere. Publicity is widespread, and the opportunity to register to vote has never been difficult. There are registration forms in telephone books; election offices are open 40 hours a week; cards are provided for registration drives as well as mailed to individuals who request them; candidates get all the cards they want, and so on.

This is NOT a partisan issue, but one of maintaining the integrity of the election process. As a county that has had several re-counts, we believe accuracy is of paramount importance.

Board of Lake County Commissioners

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Hutchin".

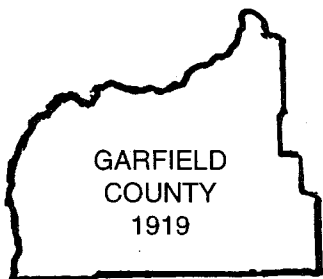
Mike Hutchin

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paddy Trusler".

Paddy Trusler

Not available for signature

Chuck Whitson



County Commissioners
Garfield County
P.O. Box 7
Jordan, Montana 59337

Phone: (406) 557-2760
Fax: (406) 557-~~2625~~
2765

March 5th, 2007

Members of the Committee
Senate state Administration Committee

We, as County Commissioners, are requesting your support for HB281. Our Election Administrators are not expected to be close to perfect, they are expected to be perfect. By keeping registration and voting on Election Day, we are making election accuracy a moving target and it comes down to whether it is more important to be as close to accurate as they can be and expect the voter to shoulder a small amount of responsibility or require absolutely no responsibility of the voter and make accuracy all that more difficult to achieve.

Thank you for your time.

GARFIELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Jerry T. Caldwell Chairman
Julie A. Jordan
Jack Munson

CARTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PO BOX 315 * 214 PARK STREET**
EKALAKA, MONTANA 59324

PHONE (406) 775-8749

FAX (406) 775-8750

March 2, 2007

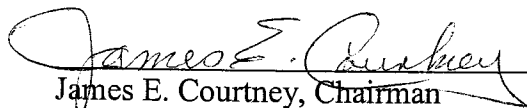
TO: Members of the Senate State Administration Committee

RE: HB No. 281

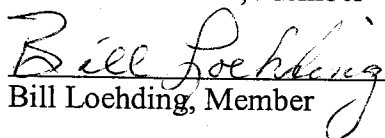
This letter is being written in support of HB 281, allowing the close of late registration at 5 PM the Friday before the election. We support this concept. While late registration did not pose a problem in our county during the General Election of 2006 we are aware that some counties received quite an influx of individuals who voted under this provision. We support the concept of late registration, however we agree with the 17 hours as provided in this bill. The 17 hours allows for the election administrators and Clerks and Recorders to verify and validate those registrants before the close of election. When the ballots are counted, more accurate unofficial counts can be provided to the media, and the integrity of the election has not been compromised.

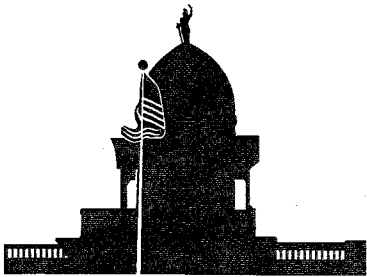
Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CARTER COUNTY, MONTANA


James E. Courtney, Chairman


Steve Rosencranz, Member


Bill Loehding, Member



CASCADE COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
325 2nd Avenue North
Great Falls, MT 59401
Tel. (406) 454-6810
Fax: (406) 454-6945
commission@co.cascade.mt.us
www.co.cascade.mt.us

Members of the Montana Legislature,

The Cascade County Commission would like to take this opportunity to add our voice to that of our Clerk and Recorder and election staff in asking you to look favorably on HB 281. This bill which has passed the Montana House of Representatives is designed to increase the integrity and stability of our election systems by moving the last day of voter registration to 5PM on the Friday prior to the election. While we recognize that some may view this as limitation on a citizen's right to vote, we believe it is more correctly viewed as a step to ensure the overall integrity of the election.

Requiring citizens to register in advance of an upcoming election in no way disenfranchises them; it merely requires them to exhibit a minimal amount of advanced effort. On the other hand, if we are not able to guarantee the integrity of the voting process and ensure our citizens that only those legally qualified to vote cast ballots; we have disenfranchised all of our citizens.

We require those who wish to drive a vehicle to register in advance and take a test, we require a waiting period on the purchase of hand guns, we require citizens to get permits in advance to remodel their own homes, we require professionals to register and take a competency exam before plying their trade, and require advanced registration on a myriad of other issues. It does not seem unreasonable therefore to require our citizens to register to vote a few days in advance of an election.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF CASCADE COUNTY


Lance Olson, Chairman


Peggy S. Beltrone, Commissioner

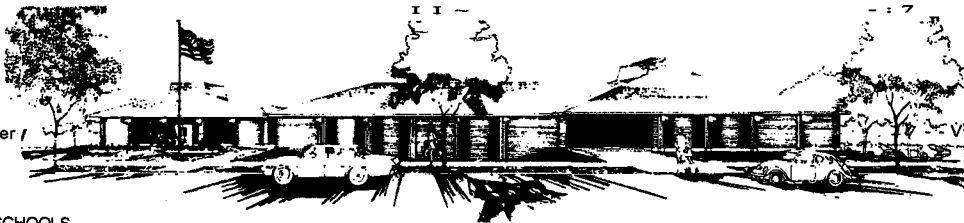

Joe Briggs, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS
Box 846 - Phone 778-7107
Deb Ranum, Chairperson, Baker /
Dennis Afrank, Baker
Donald Rieger, Ismay

CLERK & RECORDER/SUPT OF SCHOOLS
Brenda J. Wood
Box 846 - Phone 778-7106

COUNTY ATTORNEY
Albert R. (Rich) Batterman
Box 1075- Phone 778-3006

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Anna K. Straub
Box 846 - Phone 778-7128



FALLON COUNTY

BAKER, MONTANA 59313

CLERK OF COURT
Jeraldine Newell
Box 1521 Phone 778-7114

SHERIFF/CORONER
Tim Barkley
Box 899 - Phone 778-2879

TREASURER/ASSESSOR
Faye M. Koenig
Box 787 - Phone 778-7109

March 5, 2007

Members of the Committee
Senate State Administration Committee

Dear Members:

I am a County Commissioner from Fallon County. I have been made aware of HB 281 and the problems that occur by allowing the public to be able to register and vote on the same day.

I have heard the issues at hand from the Clerk and Recorder's office and share some of the same sentiments. Why a member of the public shouldn't be expected to follow a deadline for such a crucial issue as an election is beyond my comprehension. I feel it is imperative that we allow the Election Departments, in the entire state, time to make sure every registered voter is a qualified voter. We do not want to be faced with voter fraud as the integrity of every election is very important to us all.

I agree with the rest of the Commission, we have employees that are expected to work alone on election day, in the Clerk and Recorder's office, with the doors open to the public(November General). Sometimes these employees are left alone, should someone need to leave, be it on an errand or running to a polling place. Our County has taken many precautions to make sure our employees are protected (i.e. installation of alarms). We feel this is very unsafe for our employees and leaves County property open to vandalism and theft. We know how we would feel should one of our employees, family members, etc were placed in a bad situation with no way to get out of it and we are sure you would also share these feelings.

Therefore, I feel the public should be held responsible for meeting deadlines as with everything they do in every day life. Please allow HB281 to pass, thus allowing the Friday before election to be the deadline for voter registration

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Rieger
Fallon County Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS
Box 846 - Phone 778-7107
Deb Ranum, Chairperson, Baker /
Dennis Afrank, Baker
Donald Rieger, Ismay

CLERK & RECORDER/SUPT OF SCHOOLS
Brenda J. Wood
Box 846 - Phone 778-7106

COUNTY ATTORNEY
Albert R. (Rich) Batterman
Box 1075- Phone 778-3006

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Anna K. Straub
Box 846 - Phone 778-7128



FALLON COUNTY

BAKER, MONTANA 59313

CLERK OF COURT
Jeraldine Newell
Box 1521 Phone 778-7114

SHERIFF/CORONER
Tim Barkley
Box 899 - Phone 778-2879

TREASURER/ASSESSOR
Faye M. Koenig
Box 787 - Phone 778-7109

March 5, 2007

Members of the Committee
Senate State Administration Committee

Dear Members:

I am a County Commissioner from Fallon County. I have been made aware of HB 281 and have seen the problems that occur by allowing the public to be able to register and vote on the same day.

I foresee issues with the management of ballots, how many to retain in the office, how many to send to the polls. The integrity of the elections is also in question, who is going to be running the election (i.e. making the decisions, should a problem at the polls arise) if the staff is otherwise occupied registering and assisting with the late registrants. It is my concern that very possibly those decisions could be made by election judges that might not completely understand all the workings of an election. No matter how much training an election judge receives, they can not possibly know all the answers.

We have employees that are expected to work alone on election day, in the Clerk and Recorder's office, with the doors open to the public(November General). Sometimes these employees are left alone, should someone have to run to a polling place, etc. Our County is very proactive when it comes to safety issues and I feel this is an issue that no one has looked into. We feel this could be a safety issue in our County, possible vandalism, or an accident could occur or harm to those who are left alone to man this office.

Therefore, I feel the public should be held responsible for meeting deadlines as with everything they do in every day life. Please allow HB281 to pass, thus allowing the Friday before election to be the deadline for voter registration

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Afrank
Fallon County Commissioner

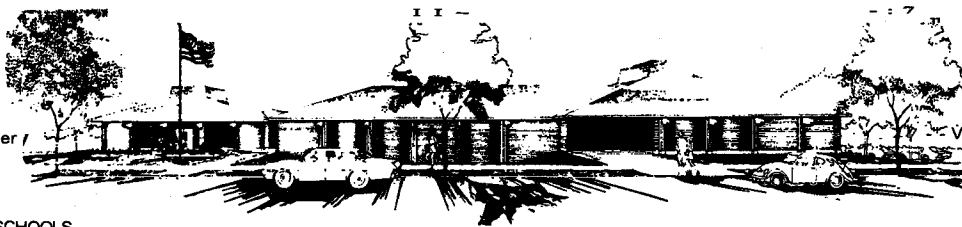
COMMISSIONERS
Box 846 - Phone 778-7107

Deb Ranum, Chairperson, Baker
Dennis Afrank, Baker
Donald Rieger, Ismay

CLERK & RECORDER/SUPT OF SCHOOLS
Brenda J. Wood
Box 846 - Phone 778-7106

COUNTY ATTORNEY
Albert R. (Rich) Batterman
Box 1075 - Phone 778-3006

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Anna K. Straub
Box 846 - Phone 778-7128



FALLON COUNTY

BAKER, MONTANA 59313

CLERK OF COURT
Jeraldine Newell
Box 1521 Phone 778-7114

SHERIFF/CORONER
Tim Barkley
Box 899 - Phone 778-2879

TREASURER/ASSESSOR
Faye M. Koenig
Box 787 - Phone 778-7109

March 5, 2007

Members of the Committee
Senate State Administration Committee

Dear Members:

I am a County Commissioner from Fallon County. I have been made aware of HB 281 and have seen the effect and know the problems that can occur by allowing the public to be able to register and vote on the same day.

I foresee issues with the management of ballots, (how many to retain in the office, how many to send to the polls), and the integrity of the election. The amount of extra ballots to be retained is something no one can predict, even in the smallest of Counties.

We have employees that are expected to work that day, in the Clerk and Recorder's office, with the doors open to the public. They are not only expected to register the public and allow them to vote, they are then expected to direct traffic for other offices that ARE NOT open. Do we know they have left the building or are they wandering around the halls and doing who knows what? We feel this could be a safety issue in our County, possible vandalism, an accident could occur or harm to those who are left alone to man this office. We have people that come in to see the Sheriff, Police, JP, Clerk of Court and or Welfare departments. When no one is there to help these people, who knows what could happen.

Therefore, I feel the public should be held responsible for meeting deadlines as with everything they do in every day life. Please allow HB281 to pass, thus allowing Friday the day before election to be the deadline for voter registration

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Ranum, Chairman
Fallon County Commissioner

Ben Ober,
Commission Chairman
Allan Underdal,
Commissioner
Dave Miller,
Commissioner
Merle Raph,
County Attorney
Donna Matoon,
Sheriff
Dan B. Whitted,
Coroner
Commissioners Office
406-424-8310
Fax #406-424-8301



Mary Ann Harwood,
Clerk & Recorder
Sandra Peers,
Clerk of Court
Boyd Jackson,
Treasurer/Assessor
Supt. Of Schools
Helen I. Schnee,
Public Administrator
Russ Mann,
Justice of the Peace
Clerk & Recorders
Office #406-424-8300
Email address:
tcclerk@3rivers.net

COUNTY OF TOOLE

226 1ST Street South
Toole County Courthouse, Shelby, MT 59474

March 5, 2007

State Senate Administration Committee

Dear Members of the Committee,

As Chairman of the Board of Toole County Commissioners, I am urging you to support HB281. I do help the Clerk & Recorder's office during election time by taking supplies to the polls, setting up the polling places and helping out on election night.

I am involved enough to know that the staff in the Clerk & Recorder's Office do an excellent job with the Elections. I know they are very concerned with the late voter registration and our Clerk & Recorder, Mary Ann Harwood, has explained to the Commissioners the problems that they encountered last November because of it. I support the Clerk & Recorder's decision to support HB281, the Commissioners of Toole County support it, and I hope that you will support it as well.

Sincerely,

Ben Ober
Chairman,
Toole County Commissioners

MAR 6 - 2007



BOARD of COMMISSIONERS

COUNTY OF CARBON • STATE OF MONTANA

Post Office Box 887
Red Lodge, MT 59068

Phone: (406) 446-1595
Fax: (406) 446-2640

March 5, 2007

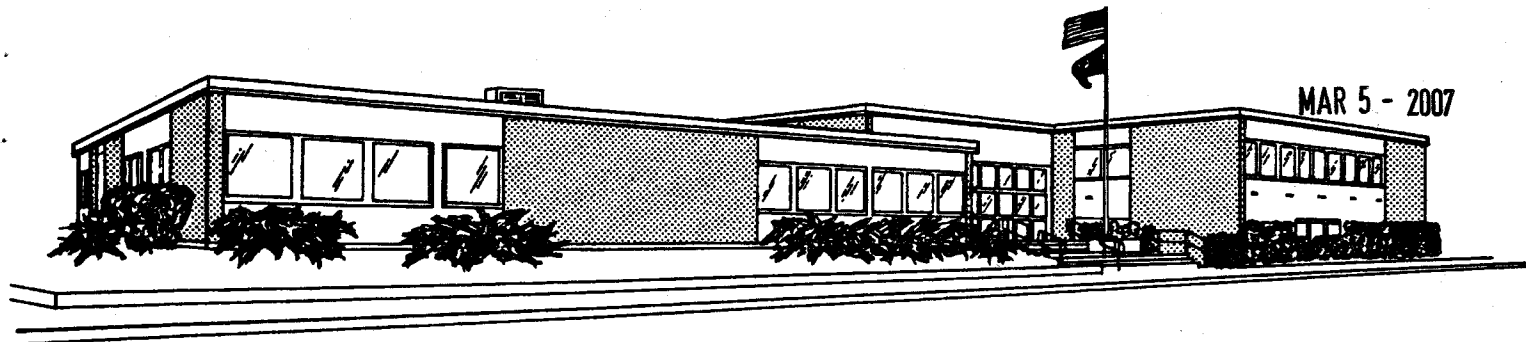
Members of the Senate State Administration Committee:

We are writing to request that you give serious consideration to House Bill 281. As County Commissioners from Carbon County, we want to give voters every opportunity to utilize their right to vote while insuring that we protect the integrity of the election process. Closing late registration at 5 pm on Friday would allow members of our election team to verify addresses and to insure that no one inadvertently is allowed to vote more than once. This would also give them the opportunity to work through the weekend to see that our election judges in the polling places have the most up-to-date information avoiding confusion and making sure that every vote is counted. We are committed to the right to vote for every person. We are further dedicated to maintaining the honesty and integrity of the election process and feel that House Bill 281 will allow for both of these values. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dail M. Daid

Albert W. Brown



Office of:

County Commissioners
Phone 377-3562
James Skillestad, Chairman
Adam J. Gartner
William E. LaBree

County of Dawson

207 W. Bell

Glendive, MT 59330

March 1, 2007

Office of:

Clerk and Recorder
Phone 377-3058
Maurine Lenhardt

Office of:

County Treasurer
Phone 377-3026
Vickie Boje

Senate State Administration Committee Members
Montana State Capitol
Helena, Montana

Dear Members:

We are writing in support of House Bill 281, closing late registration on Friday at 5:00 p.m. To conduct an election and preserve integrity, we feel that it is imperative that House Bill 281 passes through committee. This will allow the time required, over the weekend, for the Clerk and Recorder to run accurate official registers that will include only those voters eligible to vote at the polls on Election Day. Poll workers will pick up all supplies, including the official registers, on Monday.

The Clerk and Recorder didn't feel that the election judges received the attention that was necessary, due to the late registration influx. When all county offices are open on primary election day, it will be difficult to meet all requests and may create a hardship on those requiring other services, poll judges, and electors.

We encourage and acknowledge late registration, but the overall integrity of the election is our major concern.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


JAMES SKILLESTAD, CHAIRMAN


ADAM J. GARTNER, MEMBER


DOUGLAS A. BUXBAUM, MEMBER



MAR 5 - 2007

PARK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


414 E. Callender, Livingston, MT 59047 • Ph. 406-222-4106, Fax 406-222-4100
www.parkcounty.org • Email: commissioners@parkcounty.org

March 2, 2007

Members of the Committee
Senate State Administration Committee

We, the Commissioners of Park County, offer our support for our Election Administrator and the Election Administrators of the State of Montana, in their attempt to convince your committee to pass HB 281. We have diverse political backgrounds, but come together in the belief that no one knows more, than those in charge of elections, about how the elections can most effectively reflect the interests of the voters. After listening to the views of all of the Election Administrators in the state, we are certain that they need those five days between the close of registration and election day to ascertain that each registered voter has the opportunity to vote once and only once in each election. The Election Administrators agree that they need those five days to assure the integrity of the election process. Please listen to your Election Administrators, the true experts in this area, and vote for HB 281.

Sincerely,


James R. Duerksen